

# The Waste Management PEIS and Public Comment Opportunities

Public Reading Room  
U. S. Department of Energy  
Idaho Operations Office

The Department of Energy (DOE) faces many difficult issues within its waste management program, including identifying the locations where it will treat, store, and dispose of its hazardous and radioactive waste. These issues are the focus of the Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WM PEIS). Since DOE published its first Notice of Intent to prepare the WM PEIS, the public has been invited to participate through a variety of activities including scoping meetings, workshops, mailed information, and the Environmental Management Advisory Board. With the issuance of the Draft WM PEIS, DOE is providing another opportunity for the public to contribute to the process of deciding DOE's waste management strategy for the future.

## INVITING PUBLIC COMMENT

The issuance of DOE's Draft Waste Management Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (WM PEIS) begins a 90-day public comment period. As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DOE is asking for public comments on the WM PEIS and the decisions that it will support. These decisions will be part of a national waste management strategy that will help DOE move toward safe and efficient waste treatment, storage, and disposal in the future.

Successful development of the Final WM PEIS requires input from all interested individuals and groups. During the public comment period, DOE seeks to:

- Further specify which factors and criteria should be given highest priority in DOE's waste management decisions;
- Identify which of the waste management alternatives may be preferable to various groups or individuals;
- Solicit comments on the adequacy of the WM PEIS technical analysis; and
- Continue ongoing public involvement in the WM PEIS.

## ACCESSING CURRENT INFORMATION

Current, comprehensive information is available to all interested parties through the

Center for Environmental Management Information, at 1-800-736-3282. Through this source, the public can:

- Obtain a copy of the WM PEIS and/or related information;
- Identify the location of designated reading rooms both in the vicinity of the affected sites and regionally;
- Find out about meetings; and
- Sign up to receive future information regarding the WM PEIS.

Fact sheets and summary information are also available through the World Wide Web on Internet at:

<http://www.em.doe.gov/>

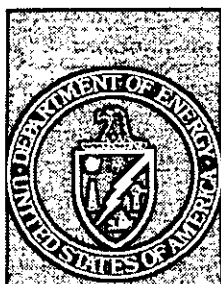
## SUBMITTING PUBLIC COMMENTS

Comments may be submitted to DOE via the U.S. mail or at public meetings. All comments will be compiled and considered in finalizing the WM PEIS. Each of these commenting mechanisms is detailed below:

### U.S. MAIL

Comments can be mailed directly to:

U.S. Department of Energy  
Waste Management Programmatic  
Environmental Impact Statement  
Post Office Box 3790  
Gaithersburg, MD 20885-3790



Waste Management  
Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

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## MEETING OPPORTUNITIES

Ten public hearings (locations listed on the next page) will be held to solicit public comment and dialogue on the WM PEIS. A number of these meetings will be held in a video conference format that may link numerous locations. This innovative approach to public meetings will allow DOE officials in Washington, D.C. to participate with the public via a video link. DOE site representatives will conduct the video conferences locally and lead group discussions.

These video conferences will offer an interactive forum for submitting comments, both oral and written, and raising issues and concerns. The interactive format is particularly beneficial because it enables the public to ask questions and discuss issues, thus gaining a better understanding of the scope of the WM PEIS and DOE's potential decisions and their implications. DOE in turn will have an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of public concern regarding the WM PEIS. This interactive workshop format is crucial to DOE's continuing efforts to provide the public with direct opportunities to exchange information with DOE representatives.

To participate in one of the ten hearings, you are encouraged to telephone 1-800-736-3282.

## MEETING LOCATIONS:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
10/17/95	Aiken, SC
10/24/95	Oak Ridge, TN
10/25/95	Idaho Falls, ID
	Boise, ID
10/26/95	Tracy, CA
10/26/95	Argonne, IL
	Upton, NY
10/26/95	Fernald, OH
11/01/95	Albuquerque, NM
11/02/95	Las Vegas, NV
11/07/95	Arvada, CO
11/09/95	Richland, WA
11/14/95	Portsmouth, OH
	Paducah, KY

Meeting dates and times may be subject to change; to confirm meeting dates, times, and specific locations in your area, call:

Center for Environmental Management  
Information at 1-800-736-3282.

## ROAD TO THE FINAL WM PEIS

After receiving comments offered by the public, DOE will consider the comments in revising and finalizing the WM PEIS. A response to comments will also be included in the Final WM PEIS. After issuance of the final WM PEIS, DOE will announce its waste management strategy decisions in Records of Decision (RODs). It is likely that DOE will issue more than one ROD. As a part of implementing waste management strategies, additional site-specific studies may then be necessary to identify the precise location, capacity, and design of facilities at the individual DOE sites.

*To review the WM PEIS, visit*

*a local reading room or call the number  
below to request a copy.*

**1-800-736-3282**

Center for Environmental Management  
Information.



## Related fact sheets

Overview

National Results

Site specific fact sheets  
for 17 sites